Cut in Subsidy on Food

125. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to cut the subsidy bill on food by Rs. 2500 crores;

(b) whether there will be a dual price system for below the poverty level (BPL) and above the poverty level (APL) people; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

Voluntary retirement scheme in Sick Banks

126. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to freeze all future wage increase in banks particularly the so called weak/sick banks;

(b) whether Government also propose to introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in these banks;

(c) whether Government have taken the views of the Unions in this regard;

(d) whether Government have finalised any time frame for completing this process, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what are the obstructions in having such a time schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) to (e) As regards the policy on voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) in public sector banks, Regulation 29 of the Bank